

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated May 13, 2008, claims 14-26 have been amended and claims 27-38 have been added. Claims 14-38 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 16-19, 25 and 26 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this Response, claims 16, 19 and 25 have been amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 14. The claims have further been amended to change “characterized in that” to “wherein” and to delete reference identifiers. Claims 16-19, 25 and 26, as amended, are believed to be allowable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 14 and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Knapp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,873).

By this Response, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the feature of objected to claim 16 that “the microwave filter includes a cover for closing the cabinet, said cover including the lightning conductor”. This feature is believed to distinguish amended claim 14 over Knapp et al. Therefore, the allowance of amended independent claim 14, and dependent claims 20-23, is respectfully solicited.

II. Claims 15 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp et al.

However, as claims 15 and 24 depend directly from amended independent claim 14, which is patentable over Knapp et al., claims 15 and 24 are patentable over Knapp et al. also.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 28-38 are submitted and have been developed from claims 1-11, granted in corresponding European application number 04730486.0. New independent claim 27 delineates:

Microwave transmission unit, such as a microwave filter, comprising:
a cabinet including a bottom wall and side walls, the cabinet being made of a non-conducting material, such as plastics, and coated with a metal layer;
a cover closing the cabinet and including a metallic body serving as a lightning conductor; and
first and second coaxial connectors mounted on the cabinet and each including an inner conductor and an outer conductor, wherein
the metallic body is electrically connected to the outer conductor of each the first and second coaxial connectors by means of fittings possessing a good electric conductivity,
the fittings being attached to each of the first and second coaxial connectors and to the metallic body so as to convey lightning currents therethrough,
a total electric resistance between the outer conductors of the first and second coaxial connectors through the metallic body and the fittings is max. 0.1 Ω , and
the metallic body and the fittings are provided as integrated parts of the microwave transmission unit.

The features recited in new independent claim 27 are not disclosed or suggested in Knapp et al. Therefore, independent claim 27 and dependent claims 28-38 are patentable over Knapp et al. and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

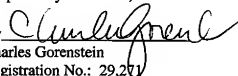
In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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